

## S P E E C H

### ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT BY THE MAYORS OF ATTIKI

#### 1. WELCOME :

- 1.1 Priests
- 1.2 Mr Diktaki - Councillor of Greek Embassy
- 1.3 Mr I Korinthios - Consul General for Greece.
- 1.4 Mr A Toumazis - Consul General for Cyprus
- 1.5 Our Hellenic visiting Mayors from Attiki - Athens.  
VILLIA VIRONAS  
AFIDNE COMMUNITY EKALI COMMUNITY  
EANDION SALAMINO COMMUNITY GROUP CO-ORDINATOR
- 1.6 M.P's Gauteng  
Mr Pangratis
- 1.7 Our Mayors and friends from our visiting towns in S.A.:  
**Who have very much associated themselves with  
Hellenism in South Africa.**  
PRETORIA GERMISTON SANDTON  
ROODEPOORT VEREENIGING  
BENONI RANDFONTEIN  
BOKSBURG ALBERTON  
WESTONARIA

#### 2. PRAISE THE VISIT :

It is wonderful that our visiting Mayors from Greece were able to come to South Africa and exchange views with a number of our First Citizens, together with some Deputy Ministers and ourselves regarding Hellenism and general conditions in South Africa.

#### 3. MUNICIPAL STRUCTURES :

- 3.1 It is important to realise that Municipal Structures form a very integral part of our daily lives.
- 3.2 Legislation and Planning takes place from the top at Parliament, but without the strong sub-structure of Local Authority to implement, to programme and monitor this legislation, we would get nowhere. Indeed, our First Citizens with their Municipal Boards play a very important and significant role in the development of the towns, be it in South Africa or Greece. We respect you all and thank you for what you do for us all.

4. GREECE - CRADLE OF CIVILISATION AND DEMOCRACY :

I wish to stress the fact that Greece is the Cradle of Democracy and Civilisation and therefore, it is very becoming that Greece is able to associate from the grass roots (Local Government), and sow it's encouragement and experience in the New South African Democracy.

Greece is truly practising Democratic relationships and co-operation by liaising directly with the people at grass roots.

5. THANK LOCAL MAYORS FOR CO-OPERATION :

We thank the Mayors of our towns for joining us, for those who had to do with our visitors. We thank them for receiving them and for the hospitality. We thank our Local Mayors for the Hand of co-operation extended to their Hellenic counterparts.

6. LOCAL HELLENIC COMMUNITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS :

It is certain that our Mayors will see that their Local Hellenic Communities feature very prominently in their towns and moreover, the fact that we have visitors from Greece, of the nature that we have, shows the interest and support that is forthcoming to the South African scene. Our Local Mayors can rely on the support of the Hellenes and their towns.

Remember, we are providers of employment opportunities.

7. VISIT TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF SCIENCE & CULTURE BY HELLENIC MAYORS :

At a recent function where the visiting Mayors met the Deputy Minister of Science and Culture, they offered to pay accommodation expenses for 50 high school students from South Africa for one month, every year.

I am certain there will be a spread of youth from most of our South African towns.

8. CLOSING

As a token of appreciation to our visiting Mayors from Greece, we would like to hand over this gift which is meant for the Central Office of the Mayors Association of Attiki. A small gesture of remembrance from the Federation of Hellenic Communities of South Africa.

9. CONSUL GENERAL :

9.1 In discussing the Local Structure, a man who has had a very important role to play, is our Consul General, Mr John Korinthios, whom I know has visited virtually all the towns and has had a very good association with our First Citizens.

9.2 Mr Korinthios' term of office has now expired and we take this opportunity to thank him for what he has done for Hellenism in the Republic of South Africa, for his very close co-operation and sometimes under very difficult circumstances. We thank him for all that he has done.

We must bear in mind that our Consul General had to face a tremendous task and challenge when South Africa was, in what people thought would be the throws of turmoil with the change of Government and the total liberalisation of the Republic of South Africa.

9.3 Our Consul General performed his office duties very professionally, together with that of his staff and the end result is that the Hellenic Community came out stronger and better organised, in order to be supportive and meet the requirements of our South African Democracy.

9.4 We thank our Consul General and wish him and his family well in the future and have no doubt that our paths will cross again.

9.5 CLOSING

As a token of our appreciation, we hand over this small gift for which we ask Mr Korinthios to remember us by.

**THANK YOU!**

GENERAL CLOSING :

Thank all.

Let this be the foundation of many visits between towns where the action of living, culture, business investment and work opportunities takes place. Let us all do our share and participate for the welfare of humanity.

**THANK YOU!**